

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-15

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NEA:EABINGTON

S/S-O:MTANNER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 121082

EXDIS

FOL RPT AMMAN 2599 ACTION SECSTATE 16 MAY QUOTE

S E C R E T AMMAN 2599

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JO, US

SUBJECT: TALK WITH KING -- AIR DEFENSE

SUMMARY. I CARRIED OUT INSTRUCTIONS ON JORDAN AIR DEFENSE PERSONALLY WITH KING. KING HAD BEEN EARLIER INFORMED OF MY POINTS BY RIFAI AND BELIEVES DEAL IS NOW DEAD AND HAS APPROACHED SOVIETS. HE HAS NOT YET HEARD FROM SAUDIS. KING DESCRIBED FOR ME SEQUENCE OF HIS NEXT STEPS WITH THE SOVIETS INCLUDING HIS HOPE TO AVOID POLITICAL STRINGS, OR LARGE SOVIET ADVISOR PRESENCE IN JORDAN, AND TO FIND ADEQUATE FINANCING FROM SOVIETS. END SUMMARY.

1. I SAW KING HUSSEIN MAY 15. I TOLD HIM THAT I HAD ALREADY COMMUNICATED TO PRIME MINISTER RIFAI WHAT I HAD
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TO SAY ON AIR DEFENSE SITUATION. HOWEVER I ALSO WANTED

TO COVER IT FOR HIM PERSONALLY.

2. I REPEATED AS INSTRUCTED THAT WE WANTED SAUDIS TO CONVEY DIRECTLY TO JORDAN THEIR REACTION TO KING'S LAST LETTER, THAT WE HAD BEEN LED TO UNDERSTAND BY THE SAUDIS THAT THEY WOULD BE SENDING A LETTER TO THE KING AND THAT THE LETTER WOULD NOT CHANGE SAUDI POSITION. I ADDED THAT WE HAD DONE ALL THAT WE COULD AND THAT IF IT HAD COME TO IRREVOCABLE DECISION, KING HAD JORDAN'S FUTURE IN HIS HANDS.

3. KING SAID THAT HE HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY LETTER FROM SAUDIS. HOWEVER TIME HAD RUN OUT AND THERE WAS NO LONGER ANY POSSIBILITY OF A DEAL.

4. I TOLD KING I HAD RECEIVED HIS LETTER FOR THE SECRETARY AND HAD PASSED IT ON. FOLLOWING UP THE LETTER, I ASKED HIM WHAT WERE HIS NEXT STEPS.

5. KING SAID HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO ASK THAT SOVIET AIR MARSHALL KUTAKHOV COME EMPOWERED TO SPEAK WITH JORDANIANS ABOUT AIR DEFENSE SYSTEMS. SOVIETS HAD REPLIED THAT KUTAKHOV WAS SO EMPOWERED AND WAS BEST EQUIPPED IN SOVIET UNION TO CARRY ON SUCH CONVERSATIONS.

6. KING SAID HIS NEXT STEP WILL BE TO BEGIN MONDAY, MAY 17, TALKING TO SOVIETS ABOUT WHAT OPTIONS THEY MIGHT HAVE. KING SAID AT PRESENT HE IS IN VERY WEAK POSITION SINCE HE HAS NO FUNDS. HE WILL MAKE CLEAR TO SOVIETS THAT HE WISHES TO OBTAIN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM ON SAME BASIS THAT HE HAS DEALT WITH U.S. IN PAST -- THAT HE WANTS FIRST-CLASS EQUIPMENT AND A MINIMUM OF FOREIGN ADVISORS PRESENT IN HIS COUNTRY. HE WILL ALSO TELL THE SOVIETS HE HAS NO FINANCES AND SEE WHAT FUNDS THEY CAN OFFER. HE ALLUDED TO POSSIBILITY OF OR HOPE FOR LONG-TERM FUNDING WITH DELAYED REPAYMENTS. HE SAID HE WILL MAKE POINT ALSO THAT JORDAN HAS NEVER ACCEPTED ATTACHMENT OF POLITICAL STRINGS TO WEAPONS DEALS.

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7. AFTER TALKS WITH SOVIET DELEGATION, KING SAID, HE WILL THEN HAVE TO DECIDE ABOUT MAKING AN APPROACH TO THE SOVIETS ON THE POLITICAL LEVEL PREPARATORY TO HIS MEETINGS WITH THEM IN MOSCOW IN MID-JUNE.

8. DEPARTMENT DISTRIBUTE FURTHER AS DESIRED.
PICKERING

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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